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Choe Kwang is official in North Korea's Stalinist hierarchy to quit the scene in the past 10 days, widening cracks in the impoverished state's leadership.

Hours after the news of Choe's death, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and South Korean counterpart Yoo Chong-ba discussed steps to bring peace to the divided Korean peninsula.

Albright and Yoo told a news conference their governments had agreed to meet North Korean representatives to discuss a proposal for four-nation peace talks to include China.

Albright, who had arrived earlier in Seoul after a whirlwind tour of major European capitals, said US and South Korean officials would meet North Korean officials on March 5 in New York to brief them on the talks proposal.

A terse announcement by Pyongyang's official Korea Central Radio said Choe, 78, died of a heart attack on Friday.

This followed news of the replacement of ailing prime minister Kang Song-san, known to be suffering from diabetes and liver disease.

The previous week the communist nation's top ideologue, Hwang Jang-yop, took refuge in the South Korean embassy in Beijing where he remains, awaiting Chinese permission to leave for asylum in Seoul.

"Choe's death, Kang's replacement,"



Torrential rains flood Kalansuwa village yesterday. (Photo: Ziv Korea, via Ilan Arad Te'ufa, courtesy of 'Yedioth Aharanot')

## Russians critical of

MOSCOW - Russian politicians and newspapers remained highly critical of NATO's expansion plans yesterday, a day after new US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright completed her visit to Russia.

Albright tried to convince the Russians that they have nothing to fear from NATO enlargement, but made little progress.

A headline in the daily *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* proclaimed that "Albright has failed to convince Moscow in the alliance's peaceful intentions." Another newspaper, *Sogodnya*, questioned the "cautious optimism" voiced by President Boris Yeltsin's spokesman after the talks and said positions of the sides appear to remain unchanged.

Moscow opposes the 16-nation alliance's plans to take in new members, including at least some of Russia's former allies. It views NATO expansion to the east as a possible security threat.

"All political forces, all branches of power (in Russia) are united in that military organizations should not be enlarged," Communist Party chief Gennady

## Heavy rains flood 500 homes in Triangle

By DAVID RUDGE

More than 500 homes in Kalansuwa village in the Triangle region were flooded when two rivers overflowed due to the torrential rain that swept most of the country yesterday.

Scores of people were trapped in their homes and had to be rescued, initially by bulldozers and tractors, because the flood water was too deep for trucks. Later, the navy brought in a rubber dinghy with an outboard motor, which they were able to use in the flooded roads to reach homes.

Soldiers from the Home Front Command, as well as police, also helped in the rescue operations.

The local council and residents accused the government of not providing funds to improve the drainage system in the area and prevent flooding from Nahal Alexander and Nahal Tzurim.

"Kalansuwa has been turned into Venice. The floods of 1990-91 have returned as a result of the floods from the rivers," local council chairman Yusef Takaruni said.

"More than 500 homes have been swamped and all the roads and streets are under water, to a depth of between one and one-and-a-half meters. I am calling on the prime minister himself to intervene and help resolve the problems here for us because the Agriculture and Interior ministries have not solved the problems.

"Our agriculture also has been hit, with greenhouses destroyed and fields flooded. We can't put up with the situation every two, three or four years," he said.

Flooding also was reported in the center of Nahariya, as well as on many roads in the northern and central districts, which were the hardest hit by the cold, wet front.

Heavy snow blocked roads on the Golan and a special mission had to be mounted by Magen David Adom to take a pregnant woman, apparently about to deliver her baby, from Majdal Shams to Safed's Rebecca Sieff Hospital.

The Hermon ski site was closed because of the heavy snowfall, although staff said the center would open later in the week for skiers, as well as visitors, when the weather clears. By yesterday, more than 1.3 meters of snow had accumulated on the peak of the mountain and even a meter on the lower slopes.

In another weather-related drama, police and members of the Golan mountain rescue team plucked 10 people to safety after they were stranded in their vehicles in thick mud and flood waters in the Jordan River channel, north of the Arik bridge.

Throughout the day, police reiterated warnings to motorists to avoid flooded areas and to drive in accordance with the bad weather conditions.

The meteorological service said the wintry conditions were expected to resume today, after an overnight break, accompanied by strong winds.

The weather bureau said there would again be the risk of flooding in low-lying areas, with the prospect of snow on Galilee peaks, as well as on the Golan and Mt. Hermon, and even a few flakes in Jerusalem.

The cold, wet front is expected to die out tomorrow.

## Kahalani on Bar-On: PM must resign if involved

By MECHAL YUDELMAN

The government will have to resign and new elections will have to be held if either Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu or Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi is found to have been directly involved in the Bar-On affair, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday.

Kahalani spoke after Channel 1 reported on Friday night that part of the police questioning of

On that same day, Israel Radio broadcast the report that Shas was considering not supporting the Hebron agreement. Hasson said that Deri, who was furious that Bar-On's candidacy was not promoted in the cabinet, was behind the radio report.

Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office Avigdor Lieberman said following that report, "Deri is sending us threats on the Hebron agreement," Hasson reported.

She also revealed that the police investigators were astounded to discover identical phrasing in the testimonies of a number of people, of all ranks, which left no doubt in investigators' minds that they had coordinated their versions of events.

Avi-Yitzhak denied yesterday Channel 1's reports by Abramovitz and Michael Doron that he provided the police with recordings of his conversations with Deri and other involved parties.

He also denied having discussed the possibility of a plea bargain with Deri in November, and that he ever asked to be attorney-general, discussed it with Deri or tried to "sell" him the idea of a general pardon on the state's 50th anniversary.

Hanegbi is believed to be one of several individuals scheduled to be questioned again this week as

## Zvili calls on Labor to plan for early elections, Page 2

Netanyahu last week was held under caution. Channel 1 commentator Amnon Abramovitz said Netanyahu evaded many questions, and replied to many others "I don't know" and "I don't remember," even though they referred to events of a few weeks ago.

At a certain point, Abramovitz said, the investigators decided to continue the questioning under caution, and the atmosphere turned tense and hostile, in contrast to the statement, prepared by the police in advance, of the "good atmosphere" during the questioning, which lasted more than four hours.

In addition, the police found several contradictions between Netanyahu's testimony and that of cabinet secretary Danny Naveh.

However, Netanyahu adviser David Bar-Ilan, while refusing to comment on the nature of the investigation, said, "I'm sure that no one in the Prime Minister's Office will be implicated in any kind of wrongdoing."

The latest developments in the investigation are creating political turmoil, and both coalition and opposition politicians began speaking over the weekend of the possibility of the government's falling in the wake of the inquiry.

Speaking to Army Radio, Kahalani said there are red lines which if crossed mean the end of the government. He said if a charge sheet is presented against the prime minister, "The government will fall, it will not be able to continue functioning, because it will be losing the public's confidence. At this stage, [if this happens] I think, it must resign."

In other developments in the case, Channel 1 reporter Ayala Hasson reported that Roni Bar-On's name was to have been raised as a candidate for attorney-general on January 3 in the cabinet, a week before he was appointed.

However, the plan to bring up Bar-On's name on January 3 was put off, after Netanyahu was warned separately by three attorneys - Dan Avi-Yitzhak, David Shintrom and Yitzhak Molcho - not to appoint him. Shintrom said the appointment "smelled bad" and also warned of the damage it could cause.



Prime Minister Netanyahu (Ariel Aronovitch)

## PA, Jordan warn against Har Homa

By JON IMMANUEL and DAVID MAKOVSKY

The Palestinian Authority cabinet issued a sharply worded statement after its meeting in Gaza Friday night, warning that the situation in Jerusalem is "explosive" and that "Israel is delivering a fatal blow" to the peace process with its plans to build a new neighborhood across the Green Line.

And on the eve of Netanyahu's visit to Jordan, Jordan's Prime Minister Abdal Karim Kabariti called on Netanyahu not to build in eastern Jerusalem so the city can remain the city of peace. He

blasted the idea of settlement construction as undermining the peace process.

The long PA statement said, "The Palestinian leadership is very worried by the explosive situation in the City of Jerusalem after the latest Israeli claims which are designed to isolate the city and Al-Aksa Mosque from the rest of the West Bank."

"The Israeli government gave itself the illegal right to change the current status quo, violating all the international agreements, the Oslo agreement and US guarantees. It is trying to change the historical, demographic, legal and geographic position of the entire city. ... It is aiming a fatal blow at the peace process. Noble Jerusalem is a red line and there is no peace between the two peoples without a just peace in Jerusalem, and [while] denying the rights of our people in their city and in their holy land."

The statement followed comments by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu that he would bring the matter of beginning building at Har Homa to the cabinet for approval next week. Netanyahu tried to sweeten the development for Palestinians last week by promising up to 1,000 units for Arabs.

Faisal Hussein, the senior Palestinian official in Jerusalem, rejected this, saying it was like offering back a small part of stolen goods.

The Palestinian warnings of violence are backed by last September's riots which killed 70 when the Western Wall tunnel exit was opened, in which the threat to Al-Aksa, though unfulfilled, was invoked. The issue unites all Palestinian factions and at the opening of a national dialogue conference to begin in Nabulus this Wednesday with the participation of all Palestinian factions, including Hamas, Israeli plans in Jerusalem are certain to be the major rallying point.

## Poking fun

By JAMAL HALABY

AMMAN (AP) - Standup comedian Hisham Yonis expected the worst.

The star of a hit play that is giving Jordan its first taste of political satire, he was ready to go on stage one night - and as usual poke fun at Arab leaders - when King Hussein showed up.

## British angry over German paper's 'Jew' tag

By PAUL MYLREA

LONDON (Reuters) - British politicians reacted angrily yesterday to a German newspaper's description of Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind as "the Jew Rifkind."

The controversial description came at the end of a report in Friday's *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* in a speech that Rifkind made in Bonn.

Journalist Michaela Wiegand wrote: "If he was not com-

pletely convinced by his own words, the Jew Rifkind concluded - ironically, apologetically - with a quote from Luther, delivered in German, 'Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise.'"

Wiegand was reported yesterday as defending her words and saying no insult was intended.

But British newspapers - the *Daily Express* devoted its front page to the story - quoted members of parliament denouncing the German paper for publishing the description.

"I find this totally abhorrent," said John Marshall of the ruling Conservative Party, whose north London constituency includes a large Jewish community.

"It's disgusting. I was absolutely appalled when I saw it," said Gerald Kaufman, a prominent member of the opposition Labour Party. "I had thought this kind of thing was all over in Germany these days. Words fail me. I cannot express my revulsion strongly enough."

Conservative Sir Ivan Lawrence, a member of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said: "This is not only offensive to the foreign secretary, it is offensive to the United Kingdom."

The newspapers said Prime Minister John Major had demanded a copy of the article but was leaving it to Rifkind to decide how to respond. The Foreign Office said Rifkind planned to ignore it.

A diplomat at the German Embassy in London was quoted as saying: "This sort of thing makes us wince."

But the FAZ appeared unrepentant. Wiegand was reported as saying: "I didn't realize that the way I phrased the sentence could be offensive to British people."

"I was only trying to underline how surprising it was that someone who is Jewish should quote the leading German Protestant reformer."

FAZ joint publisher Guenther Nonnenmacher said: "It was meant to be funny - I am deeply worried about the reaction but the paper won't apologize or distance itself from what appeared."

Rifkind's family moved to Scotland from Lithuania in the 19th century. He is one of two Jewish ministers in the British cabinet.

The foreign secretary has angered pro-Europeans in his party as well as politicians abroad by taking an increasingly tough line on the future shape of the European Union. He has accused German Chancellor Helmut Kohl of plotting to create a European superstate.

British commentators see Rifkind's shift to the right as an attempt to position himself for the leadership battle which is certain to erupt in the Conservative Party if it loses the general election due by May. The Labour Party is well ahead in opinion polls.

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# NEWS

in brief

### Lawyer: Tanenbaum affair a misunderstanding

The lawyer for the US Army engineer accused of providing classified information to Israel said Friday the whole matter is a misunderstanding. Martin E. Crandall said that contrary to FBI claims, his client, David Tanenbaum, did not admit to passing secrets to Israel nor to any wrongdoing.

"His whole problem has evolved because of the misinterpretation of what he said by a federal agent," Crandall said.

"Apparently, someone misinterpreted him to say that he turned over classified documents to foreign nationals. ... He did not admit to passing classified information."

Hillel Kutler

### Clinton declares PLO in compliance

President Clinton on Friday certified that the PLO is complying with its commitments to Israel under the Oslo accords.

The certification is a technical matter, basically a rubber-stamp of the administration's semi-annual report to Congress on the PLO's record in the peace process.

With the president's waiver of restrictions on US-PLO dealings, the organization's Washington office was allowed reopened. It had been ordered shut a week ago due to a lapse in the waiver because the most recent compliance report was about one week late due to the January negotiations leading to the Hebron agreement.

Hillel Kutler

### Regional councils to help transport soldiers

Starting today, five regional councils along the northern border have instructed their buses to ferry IDF soldiers to and from their positions, in an effort to bolster public support for the troops guarding their settlements.

In a joint project with the IDF Northern Command, the buses will pick up soldiers from collection points in the North and bring them to their positions. The buses will also return with troops bound for home leave.

"There is no doubt that this endeavor comes to improve the comfort and security of IDF soldiers and strengthens the bond between them and residents of the region," an IDF statement said.

Arieh O'Sullivan

### Druse committee to seek Azzam's release

Leaders of the Druse community in the North Friday decided to establish an action committee to seek Druse businessman Azzam's release. Azzam is being held in Egypt on charges of spying for Israel.

Leaders of the community, among them MK Salah Tarif (Labor), heads of local authorities, religious leaders and reserve IDF officers met in Kfar Yassif in Western Galilee to discuss ways of seeking Azzam's release. The action committee members are to meet this week with the US and Egyptian ambassadors, and with the prime minister and other ministers.

Azzam's brother Sami said the family had not initiated the gathering.

Tim

### Israel not blamed for civilian death

The IDF Spokesman announced yesterday that the Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee had categorically rejected Lebanon's claim that the IDF or its ally the SLA were responsible for a civilian's death as a result of a bomb blast on Thursday in open land near Frun village north of the security zone.

The statement said the Lebanese delegation had submitted what it claimed was evidence that parts of the explosive devices had been manufactured in Israel.

David Rudge

With great sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved wife, mother, grandmother and sister

## BERTHA TENNENBAUM

(née Goldfeder)

The funeral will leave today, Sunday, February 23, at 12 noon, from Shamgar Funeral Home.

Shiva will be observed at her home.  
Arzei-Habira 48/29, Jerusalem.

The Tennenbaum, Kanner and Goldstein families

With deepest sorrow we announce the sudden passing of the head of our family, our beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother

יהודה זקוקה וחסד, תופך תורה נלהב, באור בלב ובנפש לארץ ישראל  
בשעה יוקם בן מורדכי ד"ר

## MERRILL SIMON

The funeral will take place בערך 1 1/2 hours after arrival of El Al flight 008 scheduled for landing 5:00 p.m. Sunday, at the ארץ הדיים cemetery, Beit Shemesh.

Wife: Amalia Simon & children  
Son's family: Melech & Devora Simon & children  
Daughter's family: Michal & David Rubin & children  
Sisters: Marilee & Debra

The Shiva will be at 6 Parnas St. Har Nof, Jerusalem. Further details please call 02-6519824, 02-6512968

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved

## FRITZ MEYER

The funeral will take place today, Sunday, Adar I 16, 5757, February 23, 1997, at 2:15, at the Yarkon Cemetery (Hozeh Shomron Rd.). Meeting at the cemetery gate.  
Please refrain from condolence visits.

His wife: Charlotte Meyer  
His son and daughter-in-law: Dr. Michael and Ruthi Meyer  
His granddaughters: Avital and Yaël

# Cabinet presses Mordechai

Friday's cabinet meeting was stormy, with ministers hurling question after question about the negotiations with the Palestinians at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Netanyahu, Mordechai and the General Security Service head opened the meeting with a survey of the political and security situation. The ministers responded to this with a flood of questions, leading Mordechai to comment, "I feel like I'm being investigated."

"It's our right to ask questions, we are in a democratic state, you don't need to feel it's a personal attack," Tourism Minister Moshe

Katsav retorted.

Katsav then went on to ask about the government's stance regarding the building of a Palestinian sea port and airport. Foreign Minister David Levy told him that final details have not been set yet, though Israel has presented preliminary conditions regarding the entrance and exit of people and cargo.

Katsav also asked how the government would deal with illegal construction in Hebron, but did not receive an answer. He next demanded to know why Shubada Street was reopened before the security arrangements that had been agreed upon were imple-

mented. Mordechai responded that discussions on security arrangements for Shubada Street are still underway.

In answer to another question from Katsav, Netanyahu said that he has sent Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat a clear message that declaring an independent state would be a grave breach of the agreement.

Ministers Ariel Sharon and Limor Livnat demanded that future negotiations be subject to government approval.

Minister Natan Sharansky called on the government to take a united standing regarding Azzam Azzam, the Israeli citizen arrested in Egypt

on spying charges, and to maintain cool relations with Egypt until he is released. Levy and Netanyahu outlined the actions that have been taken on Azzam's behalf so far. Netanyahu said he has spoken to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak about Azzam three times already, and suggested waiting several days until making another move.

The cabinet also accepted Finance Minister Dan Meridor's proposal to rescind the emergency anti-strike decrees it issued in December.

Elyakim Rubinstein also attended the meeting, in his new capacity as attorney-general. (Iim)

# Zvilli: Prepare for elections

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Labor Secretary-General MK Nissim Zvilli yesterday called to begin preparing for early elections, "in view of the increasing signs that Benjamin Netanyahu's government has reached the end of its path."

Zvilli noted that the police probes of the goings-on in the government are increasing the probability of new elections, which, according to the new personal election law, can be held at any time.



**Strategy session**  
Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (left) meets with Syrian President Hafez Assad in Damascus yesterday. The two discussed ways of shaping a united Arab stance ahead of Mubarak's scheduled trip to Washington for talks on the peace process. (Reuters)

# Shamir to join Land of Israel Front for emergency meeting

Former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir will be the guest of honor at an emergency meeting tomorrow of the Land of Israel Front comprising coalition MKs who demand construction begin immediately on Har Homa.

Likud MK and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert and representatives of national camp parties, the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza and other organizations also have been invited to the gathering, which has been called in the Knesset the day before the scheduled meeting of the ministerial committee on Jerusalem on the subject.

The front's chairman, MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet-Likud), said the meeting is aimed at showing the MKs do not intend to relax the pressure on the prime minister until he fulfills the commitments laid out in the government's basic guidelines.

"So far, the prime minister has calmed all those who cried out about the lack of building in Jerusalem with declarations which have not been realized. He preferred to give in to Arab blackmail than respond to legitimate Jewish pressure. His declaration that he intends to build on Har Homa will be received positively only after his words turn into concrete deeds and concrete poles," Kleiner said.

Kleiner stressed the prime minister could count on front members for support and a safety net in the face of opposition to the work being carried out.

Meanwhile, Shamir blasted the man who inherited his job in remarks published on Friday, saying Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is unprincipled and good only for the Arabs.

Shamir, who was replaced by Netanyahu as Likud leader after Shamir lost a national election in 1992, said Netanyahu was softer with Arab peace partners than were Labor party leaders Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres.

### 6 killed on roads

Six people were killed and dozens injured in weekend road accidents. Police said that despite the non-stop rain over the weekend, there were few weather-related accidents since most people stayed off the roads. Most of the accidents that occurred in the North, in which there were a few light injuries, were caused by drivers not keeping a safe distance, police said.

Shamir, who was replaced by Netanyahu as Likud leader after Shamir lost a national election in 1992, said Netanyahu was softer with Arab peace partners than were Labor party leaders Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres.

"The Arabs could not possibly have any complaints about Netanyahu. From the Arab standpoint he is better than Peres and Rabin. He is giving them and will give them more," Shamir was quoted as saying in *Ma'ariv*.

"The fact is that his actions today are contrary to the Likud's principles. I don't see [that he has] any principles," he said in the interview.

"Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is working to safeguard the vital interests of the State of Israel, the Israeli people and the Land of Israel," Netanyahu's spokesman said in response to Shamir's remarks.

"It is a shame that members of the nationalist camp of all people do not understand this and are not supporting the government," he said.

Shamir, whose government launched negotiations with Arabs at the 1991 Madrid peace conference, said he never imagined a Likud leader would accept such an agreement.

Shamir, who conceded in the interview that he was a "terrorist" during the struggle against British rule before 1948, said Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is still bent on destroying Israel, but gave him high marks for getting what he wants.

"He's in control, he has succeeded, he knows how to behave, he knows how to express what he wants," he said.

Shamir also rapped the cabinet, saying Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai was "ignorant on many matters" and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi would not be suited for his position "even after 50 years on the job."

Shamir labeled Foreign Minister David Levy a "special type."

"He never telephoned me while I was prime minister, because of his pride. He did not telephone me even once, even though it was inflammatory, even when there was a need to make contact," Shamir said. "When one sits with him, there is a need to translate every word, and that is very difficult. He is intelligent, but he simply isn't knowledgeable. He doesn't read material. Considering that is the situation, it is possible to praise him on what he does know. He generally doesn't talk nonsense."

For Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, however, Shamir had unreserved praise.

"I laud the chief of general staff. [I] think that he is something out of the ordinary. I don't see a single mistake about him. The army wants to be professional, and Amnon does this in an outstanding manner."

Change in Telephone Numbers

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# AIPAC head moves into business

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

For two and a half decades, Lenny Davis has been working behind the scenes to explain Israel's case in the conflict with the Arab world. But now that Israel is entering a new era of peace with its neighbors, Davis wants to move from confrontation to cooperation.

"I have been a cold warrior, but now the Cold War is over," says Davis, who is to leave the America-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) on March 1 after 25 years, including the last 14 as the group's Israel director.

Davis will be opening a consulting

company with an eye toward trade among the US, Israel and Arab states.

"It is now time to expand Israel's role in trade and investment opportunities. The new challenges in the US-Israel relationship are economic - developing bilateral ties and establishing the trilateral commercial arrangements with Israel's neighbors, both of which will further the peace," he said.

Davis, 45, and a native Washingtonian, headed AIPAC's information department and was editor of the group's newsletter before making aliyah in 1982.

He may be best known for his writing of *Myths and Facts*. The book, dedicated to countering Arab allegations against Israel, became an indispensable sourcebook for those such as American Jewish student activists who often felt helpless amid a barrage of attacks by Arabs on campus.

His mother, Adelle Davis, who lives in Jerusalem has kept the effusive thank you letter written by conference organizer, signed "Ben Netanyahu."

Davis is already looking differently at old adversaries, as now his job has involved bringing members of Congress to meet members of the Palestinian Authority and visiting the Palestinian legislature in Ramallah.

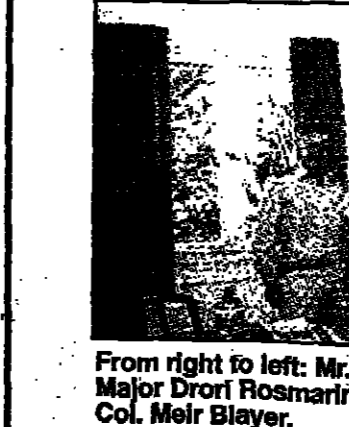
A key aspect of Davis's job, upon moving to Israel in 1982, was to solve problems in the US-Israel relationship before they burst out in the open. As a result, Davis has been in regular contact with the Prime Minister's Office, Defense Ministry, Foreign Ministry, and other governmental offices since the Menachem Begin era.

# LIBI - The Fur

Strengthening Israel's Defense

Libi Thanks the Dead Sea Works

During the recent broadcasting staged support of the Libi Works made a very generous contribution. At a subsequent ceremony, Col. Meir Blayer, the Director of Libi, presented a gift to Mr. Moshe Kleinmann, the Dead Sea Works Deputy Managing Director for Personnel Resources, as a mark of appreciation for the contribution.



From right to left: Mr. Moshe Kleinmann, Major Drori Rosmarin-Goldmann, and Col. Meir Blayer.

02-6519824



# 20,000 protest in Paris against 'racist' bill

By MATTHEW GLEDHILL

PARIS (AP) — Artists, intellectuals and simple citizens marched yesterday to protest a new immigration bill that opponents claim fingers foreigners as scapegoats for French ills.

Despite last-minute changes watering down the bill, the protest movement took on a life of its own in a climate in which foreigners are increasingly blamed for society's problems and the far-right National Front is gaining ground.

Some likened the bill to World War II collaboration with the Nazis. "This (protest) is against a state of mind that says immigrants are automatically guilty of the problems in our society," said the noted French director Bertrand Tavernier. "This started a long time ago." The march from the Gare de l'Est train station to the Gare de l'Est City Hall, culminated a week of protests, including calls to civil disobedience, against the conservative government's proposed legislation that some claim is akin to denouncing foreign guests.

An initial police report put the number of demonstrators at 20,000, but the accuracy of the

count was not immediately clear.

Organizers had predicted up to 100,000 people would join the march, a festive gathering of young and old with music and chants.

"French Immigrants, Solidarity," the crowd cried.

One poster bore a portrait of World War II Vichy regime leader Marshall Philippe Petain with the sign, "Law Debre: Refuse to Collaborate." Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debre is behind the bill.

France's former first lady, Danielle Mitterrand, wife of the late Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, was among the marchers. Asked why, she pointed to her father, a civil servant.

"During the war," she told AP, "they asked him to denounce Jewish children and professors. If they (public workers) hadn't disobeyed? ... Let's follow his example." She had no comment on the original law, passed in the early 1980s under her husband, forcing French to get permission to lodge certain foreign guests from the local city hall.

The new bill would, in addition, have forced hosts to signal when the guests depart.

But that was done away with in an amendment proposed Wednesday. Lawmakers also decided to simply take responsibility

away from local mayors, elected officials who applied the lodging law capriciously, and put it in the hands of state-appointed governors.

Plans to further toughen immigration laws come amid new pressure from the National Front, which won a fourth city hall, in the southern town of Vitrolles, in a Feb. 9 election. The party, which blames crime and France's record 12.7 unemployment rate on immigration, wants to deport North African immigrants.

The protest movement started last week when a group of French film directors said they would disobey the law. The call to civil disobedience was then joined by French intellectuals, celebrities and members of the community at large, including some judges.

Police, following on the heels of a judges' union, put out a petition Friday opposing the bill.

A poll by the Sofres firm conducted for the government and published yesterday showed that 61 percent of the 1,000 people surveyed are opposed to civil disobedience; 68 percent favor the fight against illegal immigration; and 67 percent are for the changes made to the bill. No margin of error was given, but in polls of that size the margin is usually plus or minus 3 percent.

# German state to reveal payments to SS veterans

KIEL (Reuters) - A German state government said yesterday it would make public, previously secret details of disability pension payments to veterans of Hitler's notorious SS now living in Denmark.

A documentary broadcast on Thursday by German regional NDR television reported the practice of keeping payments to SS veterans abroad secret, to protect them from possible reprisals.

The report unleashed protests from the opposition Greens in parliament, who said it was scandalous that German authorities should cooperate in shielding possible war criminals, particularly those who volunteered for the SS.

The SS was an elite force notorious for its brutality and unwavering loyalty to Hitler.

The state government of Schleswig-Holstein, which borders Denmark, said in a statement

it would not only transfer the money openly but also give Copenhagen the names of 29 Danish SS volunteers who were receiving the pension.

This would enable Denmark to consider possible prosecutions, the statement said.

Until now, the pensions have been transferred via the German Red Cross to an association of expatriate Germans, which then distributed the funds.



Free at last

Michael Hickey kisses the ground outside the High Court in London on Friday upon being released after being jailed for the murder of Staffordshire newsboy Carl Bridgewater 18 years ago, as his mother and cousin Vincent - who was also released, along with another man - look on. The case represents another humiliation for the British judicial system reeling from a succession of high profile miscarriages of justice in recent years. (AP)

# Poor poll marks for Kohl

BONN (Reuters) - Germany's press set alarm bells ringing yesterday after an opinion poll by respected researchers indicated most voters do not want Chancellor Helmut Kohl to run for re-election and gave his government a poor rating.

"The Germans don't want Kohl any more," the mass-circulation Bild newspaper trumpeted in a large front-page headline, referring to a Politbarometer survey for ZDF television.

The monthly poll showed that for the first time in his current period in office, a majority of respondents - 56 percent - believed Kohl should not stand again.

The survey by Germany's Electoral Research Group, regarded by politicians and pundits as one of the country's most reliable polling firms, also gave Kohl's government its worst satisfaction rating of the current legislative period.

Asked to rate the work of the government on a scale from plus five to minus five, voters awarded an average mark of minus 1.2. On the same scale, Kohl personally got a grade of minus 0.5 - his worst score since March 1994.

Kohl, whose 14 years in office make him the European Union's longest-serving head of government, has not yet said if he will stand again at the head of his centre-right coalition at the next general election, due in October 1998.

The poll also said that, if an election were held this weekend, Kohl's coalition would lose, attracting 45 percent of the vote while the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) would win 47 percent together with the Greens, their most likely partners.

Last month's survey had Kohl's alliance ahead with 47 percent compared to 45 percent for an SPD-Green coalition, although most other polls over the last few months have indicated a majority for the opposition.

The poll was based on telephone interviews with 1,251 Germans. It has a margin of error of 2.5 percent for larger parties and around 1.5 for smaller ones.

# Uproar over exhibit on German soldiers as Holocaust killers

By TERENCE PETTY

BONN (AP) — A World War II exhibit that unmask the regular German army as Holocaust executioners, not just dutiful soldiers, is raising a furor in Bavaria, birthplace of Hitler's Nazi movement.

Older Germans tend to view Hitler's regular armed forces — called the Wehrmacht — as an army that properly fulfilled its duties by battling enemy soldiers, while Nazi SS units carried out the fuhrer's plan to rid Europe of Jews.

That view is graphically rejected by an exhibit called *Extermination War: Crimes of the Wehrmacht 1941-44*. It documents killings of Jews, Gypsies and prisoners of war in the Soviet Union and the Balkans. Featured are photographs of civilians being shot and hanged, Nazi military papers, and letters and diaries written by ordinary Wehrmacht soldiers recounting mass killings.

The exhibit's curator, Hannes Heer, said it is not intended to sug-

gest that every Wehrmacht unit was involved in atrocities.

Nonetheless, he said, the Wehrmacht did have a significant role in killing Jews and other civilians in the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

After traveling to 16 cities in Germany and Austria during the past two years, the exhibit opens tomorrow in Munich, Bavaria's capital. The display has caused a stir wherever it has gone, but nothing like the commotion in Bavaria, Germany's most conservative state.

Neo-Nazis are planning to travel to Munich from across Germany on Saturday for a march to protest the display.

"Our grandfathers were not criminals and we are proud of them," the protest's extremist organizers said in an announcement on the Internet.

Mindful of war veterans among voters, Bavaria's conservative governing party has criticized the exhibit, and, in turn, has drawn fire from leftists for siding with

right-wing extremists on the issue.

The uproar has given a black eye to Bavaria, a region of lederhosen and Alpine vistas that would sooner forget that Hitler launched his Nazi party there in the 1920s.

The Wehrmacht exhibit was put together by German historians under the sponsorship of tobacco heir-turned-philanthropist Jan Philip Reemtsma and will be shown at Munich's Ludwig-Maximilians University.

Historians have written before about atrocities committed by the Wehrmacht. But never have so many documents and photographs been gathered together to show the full scope of the army's involvement in civilian massacres.

"The Wehrmacht conducted no 'normal war' in the Balkans and the Soviet Union from 1941 to 1944," states a catalog showing material from the exhibit.

Heer, the curator, told *Der Spiegel* magazine, "The Wehrmacht was responsible for the death of up to 1.5 million Jews, 3.3 million prisoners of war and 5 million to 7 million (non-Jewish) civilians who all died as noncombatants."

Ruthless SS commando units called "Einsatzgruppen" conducted horrific killing campaigns against Jews in the Soviet Union. But soldiers in the Wehrmacht's 6th Army also participated, sometimes enthusiastically, the documents show.

A 6th Army soldier identified only as Franz proudly wrote to his parents on July 7, 1941: "So far we have sent about 1,000 Jews to the hereafter. But that's still too few." Another soldier wrote that his unit was ordered to execute 1,000 Jews in a single day. "Children cling to their mothers, wives cling to their husbands" as they were gunned down, he wrote.

Some soldiers showed up at the execution of Jews with their cameras so they would have keepsakes to show relatives. Apparently because the Wehrmacht leadership wanted to conceal its involvement, snapshots were eventually forbidden by a 6th Army document that is also in the exhibit.

In photographs and unit logs, the exhibit shows how the 342nd Infantry Division of the Wehrmacht operating in Serbia executed Jewish civilians in 1941.

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# Playing before a disappearing audience

### The breath of Yiddish theater being felt in New York could be the last, Kathy Willens reports



Rachel Botchan, who does not speak Yiddish, performs the lead role in the Folksbiene Yiddish Theater's performance of 'The Maiden of Ludmir' in New York, while senior citizens from Philadelphia enjoy the show.

Time and age are taking their toll on the Yiddish theater, thinning the ranks of its most famous figures. And with few young performers speaking the language or learning its special craft, the venerable institution has a worried eye on the future.

Currently, a troupe of actors ranging in age from 24 to 79 is drawing audiences to New York's Folksbiene Theater, or "People's Stage," now in its 81st year and the oldest continuously running Yiddish theater in the United States.

While the Folksbiene is not without backers, general manager Elyse Frymer said it needs a permanent space and funds to go on the road every so often.

But the biggest problem, she said, is finding young actors who speak Yiddish. Only three to four million people speak it today, scholars say.

Rachel Botchan, who stars in the current production of *The Maiden of Ludmir*, does not speak it.

Trained in Shakespeare and classical theater, she answered an ad in a trade paper, sang a Yiddish song that she knew, and got the part.

"For the audition they had two scripts, one in English and one in transliterated Yiddish," said Botchan, 24. "I had a pretty good idea of what I was saying."

The Folksbiene was founded in 1915 by Jewish immigrants. Many of the founders had performed professionally in their native countries but began here as unpaid amateurs.

Originally on New York's Lower East Side—then the center of immigrant Jewish life, now dominated by Chinatown—the Folksbiene eventually moved uptown.

Since 1973 it has used a 400-seat auditorium in the second basement of midtown Manhattan's Central Synagogue. The season runs from October through January, with all productions in Yiddish. Patrons can get earphones for \$2 to hear simultaneous translation in Russian or English.

Today's actors, all professionals, play to 300 people on a good night—but sometimes to empty seats, or a house "papered" with friends, relatives and freebies.

*The Maiden of Ludmir*, a mildly feminist musical drama by Yiddish

scholar Miriam Hoffman, is based on the life of Khane Rukhl Vebermakher, who was born in Ukraine at the turn of the 19th century and "dared to become a rabbi" after experiencing a vision.

"At a recent matinee, the audience consisted of senior citizens' groups from Philadelphia and New Jersey, Orthodox Jews from Brooklyn and Queens, and 30 Russian immigrants who understood the dialogue well enough to doff their headphones."

"It harkens me back to my youth. It gives me the warm fuzzies," said Josephine Mazur, who grew up in a Yiddish-speaking neighborhood of the Bronx.

"It's not only the language that's so wonderful but the gestures and body language," said her cousin, Ruth Gollubin.

Bernard Mendelovitch, a 71-year-old Yiddish theater veteran from Bournemouth, England, appears in a guest role as Reb Motele, the famed "Rebbe of Chernobyl" who

was Vebermakher's real-life mentor. "Yiddish is not the richest of languages as far as the number of words it contains, but it's much richer in expressiveness than any other language I can think of," he said. "You simply add a shrug of the shoulders or a gesture with one hand, and that can speak volumes."

Polish-born Zypora Spaisman, at 76 a 41-year veteran of the theater and according to Frymer its "guiding force," recently recalled her 1956 debut in a production called *The Lonesome Ship*. "At the time we didn't have a theater, we played in the 'Y' on Stanton Street," she said in an interview. "Downstairs, they're playing ping-pong."

Upstairs, they're playing handball. Every time they bounced the balls, it made the ship rock—the vibrations were so strong. It was so realistic, people wanted to know how we did it! They thought it was part of the act."

Spaisman also recalls that after

playing one part—a poor, stabbily dressed town gossip—two women met her outside the theater with stockings and blouses.

"You make us laugh, you make us cry. You're so poorly dressed, we brought you these things," they said to Spaisman.

Mendelovitch, who was drawn to London's Yiddish theater at age 22 and witnessed its virtual demise many years later, said working again in New York was "like a fish being thrown back into the water."

The Folksbiene has a wonderful sense of togetherness, he said. "This gives me new hope for the future of Yiddish theater. They're such young and gifted actors. They're all willing to listen to those of us with more experience."

Said Mina Bern, 79, who plays a woman whose husband has been reincarnated as a rooster: "I think as long as there will be one Jew, Yiddish theater will survive." (AP)

## Reviving Yiddish in Bucharest

In Romania, the future of Yiddish Theater seems slightly brighter. Actors at the Festival of Jewish Theaters recently converged on Bucharest for the second year, with the single-minded aim of promoting Yiddish. Bucharest's polished Jewish State Theater played host to groups from Ukraine, France and Israel.

Many of the actors have no Jewish background but learn enough to play their parts—often coached by one of the troupe's few native speakers. "I've been Jewish for about four years now," joked Julia Gavril, a regular performer at the Bucharest theater. "I came to this theater because the working atmosphere was so good."

Constantin Dinulescu, a distinguished Romanian actor, learned from scratch his role as an elderly rabbi in *Uriel Acosta*, a 19th-century tragedy about a Jew who refuses to recant.

Tel Aviv's "Yiddish Spiel" group performed traditional songs guaranteed to make any Jewish mother weep. Its directors call for maintaining the "roots" of Yiddish song and literature and offered help to others struggling against long cultural and often financial odds. But the Romanians, Ukrainians and French would rather look to the future. "We can't behave as though we're living in a museum," Harry Eliad, the Bucharest theater director, said. "We have to get people to learn Yiddish through new means."

Georgy Melsky's young, and penniless, Mazeltov troupe from Kiev consists mainly of inexperienced but hard-working actors fresh out of university. "It's not easy performing in a Yiddish-language theater in Ukraine, but we try hard," said Kiril Bin after a performance of a modern melody of songs and verse called *I am a Jew*.

"Some of us are Jewish but most aren't. We don't even have a theater." Performers in France have things easier, but not much. "Sure it's hard to be a Yiddish-language actor in France. There's simply no one to perform with," said Rafael Goldwasser, an Argentine-born Jew who works in Strasbourg and put on a one-man show at the festival. "So I do bilingual performances and of course perform in other theaters. But it's like a spark. If you blow on it, the fire won't go out. Certain small details remain deep in my subconscious and that's what I draw on for my performances." (Reuter)



### HEADS 'N' TAILS

## Quarantine aquaria

By D'VORA BEN SHAIL

While a few people who keep aquaria are real fish lovers and breeders, to most of us an aquarium is merely a visual centerpiece. Consequently, a good many people who keep aquaria have never read anything about them and are totally unaware of some of the things they should know. Sometimes this lack of knowledge results in unfortunate situations.

Such was the case of a neighbor who had an aquarium in her living room but within a few days almost all her fish died. About two weeks before, she had bought a new pair of fish and some water plants from a pet shop. The new fish were apparently infected with a disease, either bacterial, viral or fungal, and they infected the whole population.

The only possible way to avoid this is to quarantine all new fish and snails for between two and three weeks before introducing them into the aquarium. If after

the quarantine period they are still healthy then they can be introduced into the aquarium. This is simple if you have a second aquarium, but if you don't, an ordinary goldfish bowl or a large glass jar will suffice. If the container has an adequate diameter with enough surface area at the top of the water (approximately four square centimeters per fish) then you don't need a spare aerator, and if you confine your new acquisitions to the summer then you also can get by without an extra heater.

Be sure to keep the quarantine chamber in a shady area so that it will not get too warm, add a few healthy floating plants from the main aquarium and feed the fish a good diet, but feed them lightly. Observe them every day for signs of illness including white dots on the skin which signify a fungal infection, extreme reddening of the gill slits and/or swollen gills that stand out from the body, which may be either a bacterial or fungal infection, and for signs of lethargy, increased transparency

or what appears to be a lack of orientation and erratic swimming, which usually indicates a viral or possibly bacterial disease.

In the case of new snails, just watch to see if they are moving about and feeding. Since some snails only feed at night, check the aquarium late.

New plants also can infect an aquarium if they have been in an environment where there were sick fish. It is a good idea to disinfect new plants.

First, soak the plants for half an hour in a container containing one tablespoon of chlorine bleach to a liter of cooled, boiled water, remove them from the solution and rinse well with running water.

Then leave them in a solution of one teaspoon of table salt per liter of water overnight, rinse them and they should be safe to introduce into the aquarium.

None of these procedures are difficult and in many cases they can save the loss of an entire aquarium of beautiful, and expensive, fish and plants.

## EU clears rules on gene-modified foods

The European Parliament recently cleared controversial rules for marketing and labeling genetically modified and other "novel" foods in the European Union. Genetic engineering allows beer to ferment faster, cheese to mature more quickly, pigs to grow larger, tomatoes to age more slowly and cereals to resist pests.

A large majority of Euro-MPs voted in favor of the legislation, despite criticism from environmental groups that its labeling requirements were too lax.

The vote, 339 to 60, was critical since the parliament had the power to block the legislation.

The parliament's move was welcomed by a biotechnology industry group, EuropaBio, which said it was a "vital" piece of legislation that would make industry more confident about how to bring new foods to the market. But it was

blasted by Greenpeace, which has led Europe-wide protests against gene-modified crops and foods. It called it a "slap in the face for European consumers."

Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, a German Socialist who was in charge of the legislation, told the assembly the final compromise—worked out with EU governments—was inadequate but urged Euro-MPs to accept it rather than leave a legal vacuum. Her report argued that consumers, manufacturers and traders all wanted binding EU-wide rules on labeling novel foods and that even imperfect legislation was better than a situation in which the EU had a single market but 15 different national laws.

The regulation, which directly replaces national rules, requires manufacturers to indicate to consumers when a product contains a "live" genetically altered element—that is one that can grow if given

soil or water. They will also have to label novel foods shown by scientific analysis to be significantly different from conventional foods. The wording of these labels will be largely left up to the manufacturers.

Foods produced using genetically altered raw materials which are no longer present in the final product, such as milk from cows fed on genetically modified grains, will not be labeled.

The regulation says bulk deliveries containing both conventional and genetically modified types of soya, maize and other goods do not have to be labeled, so long as "information for consumers on the possibility that genetically modified organisms may be present" is provided.

Producers can market novel foods which are "essentially equivalent" to traditional ones so long as they notify the European Commission. These will not be

labeled and will not go through rigorous health and safety tests before authorization.

"Industry will be more confident now of the basis on which novel foods can be brought to the market," Andrew Dickson, secretary general of Europa said.

But Greenpeace cited a survey released last week showing that 59 percent of Danes, Dutch, Frenchmen, Britons, Italians and Swedes opposed genetically engineered foods. (Reuter)

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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK table listing various companies and their share prices.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES NEW YORK table listing international stocks with columns for company names and prices.

LAST CHANGE table listing stock price changes.

LAST CHANGE table listing stock price changes.

LAST CHANGE table listing stock price changes.

WALL STREET REPORT section header.

Tech shares see sell-off

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks edged higher Friday despite a sell-off in technology shares, while bonds rose moderately in quiet trading.

Dow: The fall after the flight

NEW YORK (AP) - Well, of course. What else did you expect? That's probably the way one could sum up the US stock market's performance this past week.

Key Representative Rates table listing financial rates for US Dollar, Sterling, and Mark.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES table listing indices for DJ Industrials, DJ Transport, etc.

NYSE STOCKS table listing stock performance metrics.

OTHER STOCK MARKET INDEXES table listing various market indices.

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US) table listing exchange rates.

US COMMODITIES table listing commodity prices.

LONDON COMMODITIES table listing London commodity prices.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US) table listing metal prices.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES table listing metal futures prices.

LONDON METAL FIXES table listing London metal prices.

2000 SAP COMSTOCK table listing stock prices.

DATA COMMUNICATIONS table listing data communication prices.

Foreign financial data table listing international financial data.

Tel Aviv shares data table listing Tel Aviv stock prices.

FRANKFURT table listing Frankfurt stock prices.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP FTSE 100 down for the week

LONDON (Reuters) - London's FTSE 100 share index finished the week close to where it began after weakness on Wall Street and an unwinding of options positions sent it tumbling lower on Friday.

CURRENCY REPORT

Dollar begins to recover lost ground

NEW YORK (AP) - The dollar recovered some lost ground Friday as traders who made money on the Japanese yen and German mark during the prior session sold those currencies and purchased greenbacks.

Analysts said many investors appeared most comfortable going into the week. "You're still talking about a pretty perky US economy, and that keeps people willing to buy the dollar on weakness," said Lisa Finstrom, a currency analyst at Smith Barney.

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CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

Stanley Sperber leads the Haifa Symphony Orchestra in Saint-Saens's third (Organ) symphony and the three dance episodes from Leonard Bernstein's 'On the Town...'

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

MICHAEL COLLINS - Neil Jordan's big, bloody epic takes place in that cataclysmic period of Irish history between the failed Easter Rebellion of 1916 and the assassination of Collins...



Adultery, cookery, and trickery are the themes in 'Don't Dress for Dinner,' tonight in Jerusalem and tomorrow in Tel Aviv.

stances these little fictions would constitute no great cinematic crime. But in the particular charged case of IRA history, a director who takes such liberties comes uncomfortably close to revisionist mythmaking.

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'Five on the Roof' is a new original Israeli children's drama series, starting today at 4 p.m. on Channel 1. The heroes are five children who spend their time conducting scientific experiments in an attic...

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CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs 6:30 Yogi Bear 6:55 This Morning with Gabi Gazit and Fikra Michael

CHANNEL 4

17:10 Our World, The World - documentary 17:30 All Our Dreams 18:00 French programs 19:30 News headlines

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)

16:15 The Thirst of Years 17:00 Weekly Column 18:10 Amores 19:00 News in Arabic

CHANNEL 5

6:00 Bodies in Motion 6:30 Bodies in Motion 6:50 Bodies in Motion

JORDAN TV

14:00 Holy Koran 13:00 Johnny Quest 14:30 Problem Child 15:00 French programs

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns representing time slots from 19:30 to 23:00 and 8 rows representing different TV channels and their programs.

Malet (96 mins.) 23:40 The Magician (Swedish, 1958) - a dark parable by Ingmar Bergman...

DISCOVERY (8)

8:00 Open University - Archaeology; Music of the Spanish Jews; Triumphant Return

CHANNEL 5

6:30 Bodies in Motion 6:50 Bodies in Motion 6:50 Bodies in Motion

EUROSPORT

9:30 Equestrian: Volvo World Cup (pt) 20:20 On The Record World Championship, Germany (pt)

MOVIES

JERUSALEM

CHINEMATHEQUE Priscilla 5 + Lone Star 6:30 + The Gospel According to Saint Matthew 9:30

GLOBECITY

Kama Sutra: Star Trek: First Contact 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 + The Ghost and the Darkness 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

STAR TREK

First Contact 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 + The Ghost and the Darkness 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

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EVITA 6:45, 9:30 + Scream One Fine Day 7:30, 9:45 + Breathing the Waves 7:30, 9:45

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Play about cider-maker's conviction (5) 5 An officer of the law makes little money (6) 9 Many continually sweet-talk, finding only disdain (8)

Cryptic crossword grid with numbers and letters.

SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 Argon, 4 Naught, 9 Galland, 20 Stomach, 11 Soda, 23 Cheese, 28 Era, 34 Ardu, 18 Tuba, 25 Jan, 30 Overman, 31 Onix, 24 Verdi, 25 Tally-ho, 28 Ebbin, 37 Bural.

QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword grid with numbers and letters.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1 Ceze (5) 4 Luggage (5) 10 Adventure (7) 11 Unspoken (5) 12 Command (5) 15 Bill (7) 16 Interdict (4) 17 Chose (5) 19 Insurgent (5) 23 Detail (4) 25 Thrab (7) 27 Precise (5) 29 Shores (5) 30 Spy (7) 31 Tired (5) 32 Grown-up (5)

sell-on

The fall in flight

100 down in one week

A fax for you

# Portugal to publish Nazi gold figures

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Under pressure to trace Nazi gold shipments it reportedly held during World War II, the Bank of Portugal says it will publish figures on its wartime gold movements by the end of April.

The figures will represent "the bare, objective facts" of gold transactions and will be followed up by a preliminary written report in early October explaining the transactions, bank governor Antonio de Sousa said.

"No one is more interested than us in making sure that relevant information is made available as soon as possible," de Sousa said last week in a meeting with reporters.

Portugal, as well as Spain and Switzerland, has been researching the question of wartime transfers of Nazi gold since US Senator Alfonse D'Amato raised the issue through an investigation last year by the US Senate Banking Committee.

A historian employed by the central bank is currently investigating the "vast and disorganized" archive, but a commission will be created in March to aid the research, de Sousa said.

"The commission, embracing experts in history and representatives from national Jewish organizations, will set specific goals for the research and will help answer questions," de Sousa said.

He declined to give a progress report on the research launched at the end of last year.

However, he denied claims that Portugal shipped Nazi gold to Argentina during the war.

Shimon Samuels of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said last week that Portugal transferred about 300 gold bars to Argentina between December 1, 1942, and

October 17, 1943.

"In fact, we only bought gold from Argentina. The gold we purchased remained in Argentina but was earmarked for us and that is where the confusion has arisen," he said.

He added that the reports of gold transfers from Portugal to Argentina were the result of "hurried research" by groups hunting for Nazi gold.

D'Amato said last week that fresh evidence unearthed in the US National Archives show that 79 truckloads of Nazi gold were sent by Switzerland to Portugal between January 1942 and May 1944.

Samuels last week expressed dismay that the Portuguese central bank had appointed only a single historian to comb through its 14 kilometers of archives.

Samuels said after visiting the bank that "the world demands a certain promptness on this global issue."

Commissions have been set up in several countries to discover the fate of billions of dollars in gold and other valuables confiscated from the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

In Sweden, on Friday, the government appointed seven people, including a concentration camp survivor, to a commission investigating what happened to Jewish property that came to Sweden before and during World War II.

The commission is separate from a central bank investigation into whether gold that may have been stolen by the Nazis remains in the bank's reserves.

Sweden, like Switzerland, was neutral during the war. The commission says its report will be ready in March 1998.



**The play's the thing**  
Canadian philanthropist Neri Bloomfield gets a helping hand from five-year-olds Alona and Arela of Eilat in trying out Gan Neri, a playground built in the new neighborhood of Ganai Canada in Eilat. Bloomfield was one of 100 Canadian donors who visited the neighborhood made possible by their donations to the Jewish National Fund. (Arieh Jerolimski)

## Jewish Agency demands that government keep religious status quo

**By Jerusalem Post Staff**

A Jewish Agency committee called on the government on Friday to refrain from passing any legislation that would change religious laws or the religious status quo.

The Committee for the Unity of the Jewish People, of the Agency's Board of Governors, also expressed its opposition to any change in the Law of Return, calling it "one of the ways of identification of the Jewish people with the State of Israel."

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg set up the committee in 1996 to represent the Jewish world before the government on topics concerning religious legislation. The committee has representatives from all Jewish streams in Israel and abroad.

The committee's decision came after a stormy meeting in which representatives of the Mizrahi, Orthodox-affiliated movement clashed with Reform and Conservative representatives.

However, the committee finally accepted the compromise resolution Burg suggested.

The committee's demands are contained in a document to the government entitled, "Preservation of the Unity of the Jewish People."

The document will be presented today to Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, who is the government's representative in the matter.

During Friday's meeting, another Burg proposal was accepted: to set up a special

team with representatives from all Jewish streams as a framework for discussions on all topics concerning Jewish unity and cooperation between Jewish religious movements here and abroad.

"We must be an example, and show our ability to cooperate and work together, despite the natural differences among us," Burg said.

The committee also decided Friday that Burg will be its sole representative before the government and other authorities.

## Foreign Ministry to send Bulgaria aid

In light of the crisis in Bulgaria, Foreign Minister David Levy has instructed his ministry to dispatch emergency aid to Sofia as soon as possible. The ministry is sending about one ton of medical supplies today as a humanitarian gesture to ease the shortage of medicines in Bulgarian hospitals.

Ambassador to Bulgaria David Cohen is to receive the shipment and transfer it to the Bulgarian Red Cross, which will then distribute the medication to hospitals throughout the country.

*Jerusalem Post Staff*

## Levy leaves for China, Japan today

**By Jerusalem Post Staff**

Foreign Minister David Levy leaves on an official visit to China and Japan today for talks on expanding ties and the peace process.

The visit to China is being held to mark five years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Levy and his host, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen signed the agreement establishing ties in 1992.

Levy is to meet with Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng, and will hold a series of meetings with Qian, with whom he will sign a cooperation agreement between the two

foreign ministries, and will exchange letters regarding the status of the Israeli consulate in Hong Kong when the Chinese take control there in July.

Levy's meetings will take place immediately after the funeral for Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, who died Wednesday.

Talks will focus on the peace process, and he will ask the Chinese to expand the positive role they have played on the multilateral track.

Israeli officials are pleased with the recent improvement in relations with China, but Levy will seek to further develop trade, which currently stands at \$240 million.

He also plans to press for

increased agricultural cooperation, and will visit a highly successful collective farm in the Beijing region.

Levy will travel to Tokyo on Wednesday, where he will hold a series of talks with Japanese leaders. Levy has also been invited to meet with the Japanese emperor and his wife in their palace.

Japanese Foreign Minister Rukihiko Ikeda will host Levy for a state dinner, and he will also meet with Japanese Prime Minister Hashimoto Ryutaro.

Levy also hopes to focus on economic relations during his visit to Japan. On his way to China, Levy will also visit with Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Peterson.

## Scientists find new way to separate isotopes

**By JUDY SIEGEL**

A new technique for separating isotopes, based on an application of quantum theory, has been developed at the Weizmann Institute.

The discovery, says the Rehovot institute, opens up new industrial uses in a variety of fields, including advanced chemistry, genetic engineering, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and medical equipment.

The technique was developed by Dr. Ilya Averbukh, a chemical physicist who immigrated from the CIS five-and-a-half years ago and joined Weizmann's staff. It was reported in the latest issue of *Physical Review Letters* and reviewed in *Physics Today*. Yeda,

the institute's research and development arm, has applied for a patent on the new technique.

Isotopes are different "versions" of the atoms of various elements, differing in the number of neutrons in their nuclei. Different isotopes of the same element are thus equal in their chemical composition, but different in their weights and often in other physical properties (such as radioactivity). The ability to separate various isotopes is very important in the chemical, pharmaceutical and other industries and many other fields of scientific research.

For decades, methods of separating isotopes have been based on repeated "filtering" or the use of centrifuges. But these techniques, says Averbukh, are very expen-

sive, relatively slow and not highly accurate. During the past 25 years, highly effective laser methods were introduced to separate isotopes, but their use is limited by the need to fine-tune the laser beam to one particular isotope, which makes these techniques quite expensive.

Averbukh's idea is based on quantum theory, which is one of the most proven scientific theories but also one of the least tangible. Among its principles are that one can never know simultaneously the location and speed of movement of a particle. Thus, a particle being or not being in a certain place is a matter of probability, and cannot be scientifically proven.

Under certain conditions, say quantum theorists, there is no choice but to presume that a single particle exists and doesn't exist in a number of places at the same time. An electron that revolves around the nucleus of a certain atom seems to observers like a "probability cloud" spread over a relatively large area, rather than a single particle.

The Averbukh method is referred to as "wavepacket technology," because it makes use of wavepackets — a quantum-theory concept describing particular states in which electrons, atoms or

molecules can be found. Different isotopes' wavepacket patterns are like a distinctive "fingerprint." Wavepackets lose shape, spread and disintegrate over time. But Averbukh, together with his then-Soviet colleague Dr. Naum Perelman, discovered that wavepackets can reappear, sometimes as several smaller and identical "probability clouds." Each isotope follows its own cyclic pattern, which appears as a unique "fingerprint."

Applying a very short pulse of laser light to a mixture of two different isotopes, they are caused to form wavepackets. At the exact second when wavepackets of the two isotopes look different, a second laser pulse is applied to ionize one but not the other. The ionized isotopes are simply pulled out of the mixture using an electric field. In experiments conducted with scientists from Canada, two different isotopes of bromine were successfully separated.

Averbukh believes that in addition to isotope separation, wavepacket technology can be used to control chemical reactions, and even to develop ultra-fast switches that turn off and on in a trillion times a second, or 1,000 times faster than the fastest ones available today.

**WEATHER**

Golden 0-4

Hafia 7-14

Tiberias 8-13

Afula 8-11

Samaria 3-6

Tel Aviv 8-14

Jerusalem 2-5

Beersheba 2

Dead Sea 12-17

Eilat 10-15

Forecast: Rainy, snow in the Hermon northern mountains. During the night - snow in central mountains

**AROUND THE WORLD**

	LOW	HIGH		
	C	F	C	
Amsterdam	06	41	54	clear
Berlin	04	39	52	clear
Buenos Aires	19	66	84	clear
Chicago	08	46	65	rain
Frankfurt	06	43	61	cloudy
Geneva	08	46	65	cloudy
Helsinki	00	32	30	clear
Hong Kong	16	61	81	clear
Jakarta	11	52	77	clear
London	10	50	72	cloudy
Los Angeles	16	61	81	cloudy
Madrid	06	43	70	cloudy
Moscow	06	43	70	cloudy
Mumbai	23	73	83	rain
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